

Appl. No. 10/792,008
Response to Office Action mailed Aug. 15, 2006

Atty Dkt. No. 113642-050

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This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A spring clamp, comprising a clamping mouth with two clamping jaws spring-loaded toward one another by a spring and are formed by first and second arms which are connected to one another in an articulated manner at one end, and other ends of which form actuating sections which can be moved toward one another in order to open the clamping mouth; when the two clamping jaws are abutted together, the two clamping jaws, together with an articulation pin of the first and second arms, define a reference plane; wherein an angle bisector between the two actuating sections is inclined at substantially 90° to the reference plane.

Claim 2 (original): The spring clamp according to claim 1, characterized in that the one arm of the first and second arms is substantially Y-shaped and the other arm of the first and second arms is substantially L-shaped.

Claim 3 (original): The spring clamp according to claim 1, further comprising a hook pivotally mounted to one of the actuating sections.

Claim 4 (original): The spring clamp according to claim 2, further comprising a hook pivotally mounted to one of the actuating sections.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The spring clamp according to ~~claim 3 or 5~~ claim 3, wherein the hook, when pivoted in, is located in a substantially parallel position in relation to the actuating section.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The spring clamp according to ~~claim 3 or 5~~ claim 3, wherein the two actuating sections have grip zones oriented away from one another and having a soft grip layer, and inner sides oriented toward one another; and wherein the hook, when pivoted in, being positioned in a pivot-in space of at least one of the inner sides.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The spring clamp according to ~~claim 3 or 5~~ claim 3, wherein the hook has a closure tongue.

Claim 9 (original): The spring clamp according to claim 8, wherein the closure tongue is urged by spring force into a closed position and is curved in a direction of an inside of the hook.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The spring clamp according to ~~claim 3 or 5~~ claim 3, further comprising a journal mounting the hook to one of the actuating sections, the journal having stop against which a mating stop of the other actuating section contacts when the spring clamp is in an open position.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The spring clamp according to ~~claim 3 or 5~~ claim 3, further comprising a retaining bracket located on an inner side of one actuating section, the retaining bracket providing rotary articulation of the hook.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The spring clamp according to claim 11, wherein the retaining bracket has a snap-action opening, and the hook has a neck latched to the retaining bracket through the snap-action opening.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A clamp, comprising:
first and second clamping jaws biased toward each other;
a first actuating section connected to the first clamping jaw;
a second actuating section connected to the second clamping jaw;

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the first and second clamping jaws extending in a first reference direction, and the first and second actuating sections extending in a second reference direction which is generally perpendicular to the first reference direction; and

a hook pivotally mounted to one of the first and second actuating sections;
wherein the hook has a pivoted-in position between inner sides of the actuating sections.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The clamp according to claim 13, further comprising a first arm connected to the first clamping jaw and a second arm connected to the second clamping jaw, the first and second arms pivotally connected together at an arm pivot axis, wherein the hook has a pivot axis which is not parallel to the arm pivot axis.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A clamp, comprising:
first and second clamping jaws biased toward each other;
a first actuating section connected to the first clamping jaw;
a second actuating section connected to the second clamping jaw; and
a hook pivotally mounted to one of the first and second actuating sections;
wherein the hook has a pivoted-in position between inner sides of the actuating sections.

Claim 16 (new): A spring clamp, comprising a clamping mouth with two clamping jaws spring-loaded toward one another by a spring and are formed by first and second arms which are connected to one another in an articulated manner at one end, and other ends of which form actuating sections which can be moved toward one another in order to open the clamping mouth; when the two clamping jaws are abutted together, the two clamping jaws, together with an articulation pin of the first and second arms, define a reference plane; wherein an angle bisector between the two actuating sections is inclined at substantially 90° to the reference plane;

a hook pivotally mounted to one of the actuating sections; and
a retaining bracket located on an inner side of one actuating section, the retaining bracket providing rotary articulation of the hook.